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Date August 23, 2004

To Examiner Hal D. Wachsman

Of USPTO

Fax (703) 872-9306

From Paul J. Wilson and Natalya Dvorson

Subject Application 09/996,789

Our Ref Q66130

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Serial No.:09/996,789
Atty. Docket No.: Q66130

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Agenda for the Interview

Date / time / location.

August 24
9:30 am
Jefferson Building

Introductions.

Applicants' representative: Paul J. Wilson, Esq., Reg. No. 45,879
(202) 775-7585
Natalya Dvorson
(202) 857-3228

USPTO: Hal D. Wachsman
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703-872-9306

It is Applicant's intention that such an Interview will lead to an agreeable resolution to the rejected claims 1, 2, 17-21, 36-52.

Applicant would appreciate the opportunity to discuss differences that exist between the subject application as set forth in at least claim 1 and White and Rauscher.

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for predicting failure in a system, the apparatus comprising:

a measurement unit for repeatedly measuring a disorder indicator of said system, wherein the disorder indicator represents a non-designated output of said system, the non-designated output represents waste of said system, and

a comparator for comparing obtained measurements of said disorder indicator with a predetermined statistical description of said disorder indicator to determine whether a deviation

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is present between presently measured values of said disorder indicator and said statistical description, said apparatus being operable to issue a failure prediction upon determination that such a deviation is statistically significant,

wherein said disorder indicator provides non-specific failure indications.